

BALZAC'S METHODS.

"Figaro" Tells How He Scribbled Off "Cesar Birotteau."

Balzac's method of working was eccentric. Balzac says that when he had well conceived the subject upon which he proposed to write he would cover some thirty or forty pages with ideas and phrases. These he would send to the printer, who returned proof sheets pasted upon large sheets of paper. The work was then corrected.

On a second reading the forty pages grew to a hundred, and so on, while on the proof sheets now lines would start from the beginning, middle or end of a phrase; and if the margins were insufficient other sheets were added, until at last the work was satisfactorily completed. A specimen of Balzac's "proof" has the appearance of a geographical map with its rivers, estuaries and lakes, or perhaps it even more closely resembles a complicated railway system in which the lines cross and recross each other in a manner that would almost bewilder Bradshaw.

The most graphic description of this realist at work is to be found in an article in the Figaro of December 15, 1837, called "The Misfortunes and Adventures of Cesar Birotteau Before His Birth." It would appear that Figaro promised the book for December 15, and Balzac only began it on November 17. The printing press was prepared. Balzac immediately sent in two hundred sheets, "scribbled" in five nights of fever. "Every one knows how he writes," says Figaro. "It was an outline, a chaos, an apocalypse, a Hindoo poem. * * * The time was short; no one could make head or tail of the writing, but it was transposed as nearly as possible into familiar signs. The author sent back the first two proofs pasted on enormous placards.

"It was frightful. From each sign, from each printed word, shot a pen stroke, gliding like a sky-rocket and bursting at the extremity of a luminous fan of phrases, epithets, substantives, underlined, crossed, intermingled, erased and superseded. Its appearance is simply dazzling. * * * The office was far from gay. The type-setters beat their breasts, the presses groaned, the proof-readers tore their hair." The proofs were sent back seven consecutive times; and then a "few symptoms of excellent French" appeared, and there was observed a certain connection between the phrases; but the day—December 15—was fast approaching, and it was felt that the book would never appear. But Balzac and Figaro kept their word with the public, and "Cesar Birotteau" saw the light on the date agreed upon. It was composed, written and corrected fifteen times by the author in twenty days. In a letter in which he speaks of an attack of neuralgia he says: "I wrote 'Cesar Birotteau' with my feet in mustard; I am now writing 'Les Paysans' with my head in opium."

HOME HINTS AND HELPS.

—To clean gold, wash it in warm water containing ten or twelve drops of sal volatile.

Cocoanut Tart.—Take half a pound of fine granulated sugar and dissolve in half a pint of water; add a pound of grated cocoanut and boil; when cold add the well-beaten yolks of three eggs and the white of one; flavor with lemon or vanilla; pour into tart rings lined with good paste. Bake quickly.

—Roiled Beefsteak.—Take a round steak, stuff as you do a fowl, roll neatly and tie in shape. Put in a bake tin, bake often and baste till tender. Thicken the gravy in the pan, season with catsup or lemon, and pour it around the meat. In serving cut from the end. Tough meat can be made tender cooked in this style.

—To preserve the crispness and flavor of green vegetables for salads throw them in ice-water for an hour, then dry carefully on a soft towel, being careful not to bruise them, and then put in a cold place until wanted. Never mix any salad with the dressing until you are ready to serve it. Use the coldest of dishes to serve it on, and if garnished properly, it is one of the most attractive and wholesome dishes on the table.—Table Talk.

A Good Breakfast Dish.—To a pint of cold mashed potato add a tablespoonful melted butter, a well-beaten egg and one teaspoonful minced parsley. Mold into cakes with the hand, dip them in beaten egg, then in cracker dust and fry to a nice brown on both sides in plenty of hot butter and drippings. As taken up, have ready as many poached eggs as you wish to serve, lay one on the top of each on the platter. Garnish with parsley and serve at once.—Orange Judd Farmer.

A common wash-stand may be transformed into an attractive piece of furniture for the sitting-room by employing a new style used in decorating the tops of little tables. The upright sides and back of the upper shelf must be removed and the top covered with a pretty cretonne, attached without a wrinkle. It must be neatly and smoothly applied and then varnished with transparent varnish. Several coats will be required, until a finished surface is presented, which does not suggest that the pretty decoration is due to any textile fabric. The legs may be painted with gold paint and varnished with white varnish or finished with enamel, as desired.

An Old Missionary Society.

England's oldest missionary society is now devoting its energies to the advancement of the spiritual condition of the Canadian Indians, and is known as the "New England Company." It dates back from 1649, in which year an ordinance was passed creating a corporation of sixteen persons, called "The President and Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in New England," with power to acquire lands, goods and money. The society had its origin in the interest created at that time by the labors and writings of John Eliot, and owed its first endowment to Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector, who ordered a collection to be made in the parishes of England and Wales, thereby obtaining the sum of £12,000.—Chicago Herald.

PLEBS! PLEBS! ITCHING PLEBS!

Symptoms: Moisture; itching; itching and stinging; most at night; worse by scratching; allowed to continue, tumors form, which often bleed and ulcerate, becoming very sore. SWAYNE'S OINTMENT stops the itching and bleeding, heals ulceration, and in most cases removes the tumors. At druggists, or by mail, for 50 cents. Dr. Swayne & Co., Philadelphia.

ANCIENT LIBRARIES.

Before the Discovery of Printing, Books Were Very Large and Heavy.

The discovery of the art of printing wrought many curious changes; but in no respect was the transformation more striking, perhaps, than in the appearance of library interiors. So long as books were written by scribes upon leaves of parchment it followed of necessity that matter which might now be compressed into a small duodecimo filled what is called a folio—a book of the shape and size of a huge ledger.

So heavy were these folios, that the wits of the day asserted that ladies read books which they could not lift. It was customary to ornament only the upper cover, and in order to show the carving, chasing and enamel work, the book was invariably laid upon its side.

To protect the work of the silversmith or carver, the work was usually encased in a thin leather cover, called its "fardel," the edges of which met in front of the book, where they were tied together by leather thongs, so that all dust and dirt might be excluded. To distinguish one book from another, the title was written upon a parchment tag which was fastened to the thongs of the fardel or to the metal clasps often made use of. It was not unusual, also, to inscribe the title upon the clasps, or even upon the front edges of the book.

From what has been said, it will occur to the reader that the first thing to meet the eye upon entering one of these old book rooms was line upon line of books, lying flat upon the shelves with their front edges turned outward—a very different sight from that presented by a modern library, with its shelves of books all standing on end with their backs brilliantly ornamented.

But the makers of these old folios did attempt to beautify the edges of their books. This process was termed "gauffering." The book was placed in a press and the edges were gilded, after which a delicate tracery was worked upon the edge by indenting it with a steel die struck by a small hammer. In other cases symbols and verses were painted in bright colors upon the front edges so that, after all, the appearance of one of these old libraries was not quite so dreary as might at first be supposed.—Youth's Companion.

THE MIGHTY FALLEN.

How the Dictator of Suedunk Lost His Influence.

He had returned to his village home from a trip to Washington, and that same evening he appeared at the drug store to entertain an admiring audience with his adventures.

"Saw our Congressman, I suppose?" queried the blacksmith.

"Of course, and took dinner with him."

"You did, eh? By George, but that shows we are no one-horse folks here! See the President?"

"I did, by special appointment."

"Shake hands with him?"

"Yes, sir."

"Ask you to sit down?"

"Yes, sir."

"Seemed to be glad to see you?"

"He did."

"About fifteen minutes."

"Ask you to call again?"

"He did."

"Did you call him Ben?"

"Why, no."

"You didn't dare call him Ben."

"Certainly not."

"Well, that's all I want to know, sir! You own the grist mill, woolen factory, three stores and the tavern, and have been to the Legislature, and given us to understand that you were a heap of a feller, but you ain't. You went down to Washington and sat on the edge of a chair and talked to the President, and didn't call him Ben, and I don't follow you any further! Come on, boys, let's go up to Church's grocery and see that feller who fit seven rounds of a prize fight in Buffalo last week."—N. Y. Sun.

A VALUABLE TABLE.

The Capacity of Cisterns for Each Ten Inches in Depth.

Twenty-five feet in diameter, 3,059 gallons.

Twenty feet in diameter, 1,958 gallons.

Fifteen feet in diameter, 1,101 gallons.

Fourteen feet in diameter, 959 gallons.

Thirteen feet in diameter, 827 gallons.

Twelve feet in diameter, 705 gallons.

Eleven feet in diameter, 592 gallons.

Ten feet in diameter, 489 gallons.

Nine feet in diameter, 395 gallons.

Eight feet in diameter, 313 gallons.

Seven feet in diameter, 250 gallons.

Six and one-half feet in diameter, 206 gallons.

Six feet in diameter, 176 gallons.

Five feet in diameter, 123 gallons.

Four and one-half feet in diameter, 99 gallons.

Four feet in diameter, 78 gallons.

Three feet in diameter, 44 gallons.

Two and one-half feet in diameter, 30 gallons.

Two feet in diameter, 19 gallons.—Shoe and Leather Review Directory.

Some Popular Errors.

It is a favorite paradox of some that the greatest dandies make the bravest soldiers, as many take pleasure in repeating that great men have usually had small persons. These opinions spring from that love of finding or making a wonder, which is one of the most tenacious principles in human nature and is the cause of half the error that exists in the world. The fact seems to be that brave men have been, in general, neither dandies nor slovens, but simply neat and cleanly, though, of course, there are exceptions of both kinds. Great men, also, have been, in general, neither little nor big, though there have been many of both classes. Size has nothing to do with the question; and the middle-sized class has produced the greatest number of geniuses, simply because it is the most numerous.—N. Y. Ledger.

Economy Indian Pudding.

—Stir seven tablespoonfuls of corn meal into a quart of scalding milk; add a teaspoonful of salt and one each of ginger and cinnamon, with a cupful of molasses. Bake covered for two hours, remove the cover and bake for half an hour longer.

WANTED.—Agents for the Economy

Fuel Burner. Cheap and best of the kind in the market. Address P. O. Box 583, Omaha, Neb.

The Can Can restaurant has the

finest varieties of fish fresh every day.

SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

The Methodist church will have a new university in Washington, D. C., if present plans are realized.

The Supreme Court of California has decided that colored children can not be excluded from the public schools of that State on account of their color.

The Alumni Association of Howard University, Washington, has assumed the support of a new chair in mathematics, to which one of their number has been elected, a young man of high attainment.

The building of the new Protestant church at Bethlehem, in Palestine, which was interrupted in 1888, has now been resumed by permission of the Sultan, at the special wish of the German Emperor.

Prof. Noah K. Davis, of the University of Virginia, says: "Those who speak of State universities as if they were necessarily or even generally pervaded by skepticism and irreligion remind me of sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. Simply, is not true. The opposite is more nearly true."

The attendance at Marietta College, Marietta, O., is increasing year by year. There are ninety-five in the college classes—more than ever before in the fifty-four years of its history. Fifty-six are members of churches, of whom twenty-two are looking to the ministry. One is a Persian, fitting to teach in the mission college. Two Indians, active, religious men, are fitting for higher service among their people.

A church which desired to get rid of an aged pastor who had long served it had a meeting to consider the matter. After considerable discussion, one of the deacons who had hitherto said nothing, getting impatient, arose and said: "Mr. Chairman, I move that Mr. H.'s usefulness in this field come to an end after to-night." The motion was carried. Churches sometimes bring a pastor's "usefulness to an end" without a formal vote. It is easily done when a few people set themselves to it.—Christian Inquirer.

Amherst College is making a move which will be watched with great interest by the other colleges. The students have placed their athletics in the hands of an advisory board consisting of ten members, made up of the professors of physical education; the presidents of the base ball, foot ball and athletic associations; three alumni not members of the faculty and Frederick B. Pratt. The two members of the faculty and three alumni members will be appointed by the college senate. The athletic policy of the college and the finances connected therewith will be completely controlled by the new board.

One feature which the city and the school system should have and which both need quite as much as they do new schools, is a school building which shall be the center and distributing point of all information on school matters. As there is no city in the country which has so great a number of pupils, teachers and school buildings, there is also no large city which has more inadequate means of reaching, directing or accommodating its teachers; of furnishing them with desired information on school subjects, of instructing them in the history of education itself, an instruction which has become part of the necessary studies of the teacher-to-day who desires to become fully abreast with the latest educational movements.—School.

IN THE CHURCH-YARD.

A Bit of Reality Calculated to Bring Tears of Sympathy to the Eye.

A low mound, with wooden slabs rotting away under its briar-grown turf, a baby form long since a handful of dust. Old and young, the busy and the idle, in which the village dead were sleeping—it had lain beneath sunshine and shadow, while the years crept by unnumbered.

Often I had passed it in its quiet corner; no other graves were nigh it, and tangled weeds grew rank above the forgotten dust. The white head-stones of many a quiet sleeper marked life's last mile-post, on the slopes above it, but here a wooden slab crumbled and crumbled away.

One day a new mound, scarcely so long, was heaped beside it, and in the calm, October sunshine I read in pencil, on the card above it, the one word—"Lois."

The named, and the nameless. Innocent alike before the great bar of judgment, and alike, hushed forever in the everlasting silence. As I stood above these quiet mounds, the old sexton, with pick and spade, came toward me. "It hurts me to do it, sir," he said, "me as has babies of my own at home, but a gen'l'man as has bought the lot says as how the little 'un must be took away," and he rubbed the sleeve of a worn jacket across his eyes.

"It pears to me," he continued, "that if it had been one of my own babies"—pointing to the new mound—"I'd kinder have wanted the little 'un to keep company—it wouldn't have seemed so one-some like, an'—an'—it couldn't have done no harm," and the old man's voice grew husky.

"Where do I move the wee 'un?—down to 'tother side, where the graves is free," he replied in answer to my question: "there's many of 'em there, sir, older than I can remember, and I think, sometimes, I'd like to be buried there myself. Sometimes I wonder if these great stones mightn't be in the way when the dead rise again at His comin'."

And thus volubly the old man prattled on, and his spade sunk deeper and deeper, and the heap of brown earth grew larger.

It was only a rude box, very, very small, but reverently I followed it to that portion of the church-yard where the pauper dead lay sleeping. Into a shallow grave we lowered the nameless dust, and on the little mound we laid an autumn garland in memory of Him, all-pitying, who forbade not such as these into His presence.

And you're safe in that fold, wee sleeper; hands may not break your rest. Nameless, sleep on with the unknown dead; brier and weed grow rank above you, but over all is God's blue sky and sunshine.—Detroit Free Press.

BLANKS.

Location notices, Justices' blanks, applicable to the new Code, mining bonds and deeds, and all blanks commonly in use, for sale at this office.

Fresh buttermilk at the Can Can.

H. J. Peto, the druggist, wishes to remind his patrons that it is a dangerous policy to wait until taken sick before buying a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhea Remedy. Every family should be provided with some ready remedy for bowel complaints, required during the summer months, and this remedy is unquestionably far superior to any other. It can always be depended upon, and is pleasant and safe to take. It is put up in 25 and 50 cent bottles.

The leading question now is: "Are you provided with a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhea Remedy, at a safe guard against an attack of bowel complaint during the summer months?" No family can afford to risk being without this invaluable medicine during the hot weather. It is almost certain to be needed, and is a friend indeed when required, as it never fails and is pleasant and safe to take. 25 and 50 cent bottles for sale by H. J. Peto.

The fact has been abundantly proven that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is the most prompt, most reliable and most successful medicine yet discovered for acute throat and lung diseases, such as coughs, colds and croup. For sale by H. J. Peto.

Thursts.

Whether a pleasure bent or business bound, take every trip a bottle of Syrup of Figgs, as it acts most pleasantly and effectively on the bowels, liver and stomach, preventing fevers, headaches and other forms of sickness. For sale in 50c and \$1.00 bottles by all leading druggists.

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